

Remarks

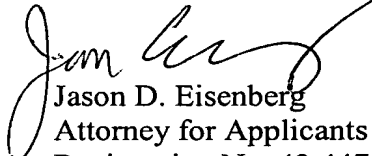
Claims 1-16 are pending in the application, with 1 and 11 being the independent claims. No new matter was entered by the amendments to the specification, which were mostly made to correct typographical errors. Support for all the amendments to the specification is found, *inter alia*, in the originally filed specification, figures, and claims.

Conclusion

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Preliminary Amendment is respectfully requested. Applicants believe the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.


Jason D. Eisenberg
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 43,447

Date: _____

2/23/04

1100 New York Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20005-3934
(202) 371-2600